## Message Text

SECRET

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44

**ACTION EUR-12** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

OMB-01 MC-01 /059 W

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5164

SECDEF/ISA IMMEDIATE

OSAF/I&L IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

CINCUSAFE

USMISSION NATO

SECRETTHE HAGUE 0571

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, NL, BE, NO, DA

SUBJECT: F-104 REPLACEMENT - FINAL REPORT OF 4-COUNTRY CONSORTIUM

1. INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM HIGHLY RELIABLE SOURCES THAT THE

FINAL REPORT OF THE CONSORTIUM HAS BEEN UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE

STEERING COMMITTEE OF ALL 4 COUNTRIES. MORE IMPORTANT, THE 15

PAGES REPORT PROVIDES AN IRREFUTABLE ADVANTAGE TO THE F-16  $\,$ 

PARTICULARLY

IN THE AREAS OF COST AND TECHNOLOGY. INTERESTINGLY, THE F-17

IS NOT EVALUATED IN THE REPORT. SOURCE TOLD MAAG OFFICER THAT

REPORT LEFT LITTLE OR NO ROOM FOR A FRENCH DECISION. HOWEVER

PROBLEMS ARE ARISING IN CERTAIN POLITICAL AREAS

DUE TO INFLEXIBILITY OF REPORT. SOURCE STATED THAT THERE IS A

GREATER PROBABILITY OF SELECTING A LESS EXPENSIVE AIRCRAFT OR

EVEN TO DELAY THE DECISION TO AN INDEFINITE DATE THAN SELECTING SECRET

SECRET

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A FRENCH AIRCRAFT. AT THIS TIME THE DUTCH DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH

MONEY IN THE BUDGET TO PURCHASE THE MORE EXPENSIVE FRENCH AIRCRAFT.

2. FRENCH APPARENTLY HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN THE REPORT. SEVERAL KEY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE NETHER-LANDS HAVE RECEIVED A WRITTEN FRENCH ANALYSIS (FORWARDED SEPARATELY) ATTACKING U.S. PROPOSAL IN GENERAL AND SELECTED STATEMENTS IN THE STEEVING COMMITTEE REPORT. MAAG OFFICER HAS RECOMMENDED TO DUTCH MILITARY THAT SEC SCHRONTZ COME TO THE NETHERLANDS TO DISCUSS FACTUAL INFORMATON OF U.S. OFFER WITH KEY DUTCH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND "SET THE RECORDS STRAIGHT" IN LIGHT OF FRENCH ANALYSIS. RECOMMEDNATION HAS RNLAF'S APPROVAL AND HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH MINISTER VREDELING. MOD AGREES SHORNTZ VISIT MAY BE HELFPFUL. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES TIMING OV SIT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE AND HAS STATED HE WILL SUGGEST AN APPROPRIATE DATE AS EARLY AS PRACTICABLE. GOULD

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

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